

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-27 **(Canceled)**.

28. **(Previously presented)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a variable valve train for a cam-actuated lifting valve, including the steps of hydraulically activating the lifting valve and providing an additional lift during a mechanical lifting phase performed by the cam.

29. **(Previously presented)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a valve train for a cam-actuated lifting valve, including the step of hydraulically reopening the lifting valve at least once after a mechanical lifting phase performed by the cam has ceased.

30. **(Previously presented)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a valve train for a cam-actuated lifting valve, including the steps of alternately mechanically and hydraulically determining lifts of subsequent charge exchange processes.

31. **(New)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a variable valve train for a cam-actuated lifting valve, including the steps of:

providing a hydraulic high pressure level for a hydraulic activating force which is greater than a closing force of a valve spring of the lifting valve,

hydraulically activating the lifting valve, and

providing an additional hydraulic lift during a mechanical lifting phase performed by the cam.

32. **(New)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a valve train for a cam-actuated lifting valve, including the steps of:

providing a hydraulic high pressure level for a hydraulic activating force which is greater than a closing force of a valve spring of the lifting valve, and

hydraulically reopening the lifting valve at least once within a working cycle after a mechanical lifting phase performed by the cam has ceased.

33. **(New)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a valve train for a cam-actuated lifting valve, including the steps of:

providing a hydraulic high pressure level for a hydraulic activating force which is greater than a closing force of a valve spring of the lifting valve, and

alternatingly mechanically and hydraulically determining lifts of subsequent charge exchange processes.

34. **(New)** A method of operating an internal combustion engine with a valve trains for a cam-actuated valve, including the steps of:

providing a hydraulic high pressure level for a hydraulic activating force which is greater than a closing force of a valve spring of the lifting valve,

providing a middle pressure level beyond the high pressure level,

hydraulically lifting the lifting valve by pressurizing a pressure chamber with the high pressure level, and

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controlling the opening lifting velocity of the lifting valve by
modulating the pressure within the pressure chamber, wherein the
pressure chamber is pressurized with the high pressure level and the
middle pressure level alternatingly.